

# *Annual* WATER QUALITY REPORT

*Reporting Year 2013*



*Presented By*  
**Santa Fe Irrigation District**

PWS ID#: 3710023

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

## There When You Need Us

For more than 90 years, the Santa Fe Irrigation District (District) has taken pride in providing water services to its customers. As a result of its commitment to providing its customers with a safe and reliable water supply, the District is proud to issue its 2013 water quality test results for drinking water delivered to customers from January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2013. As this report will show, the District's drinking water meets or exceeds all local, state, and federal standards. In the District's commitment to providing safe and reliable water, the District is also dedicated to providing stewardship in the areas of source water protection, water conservation, and community education. To learn more about your water, water conservation programs, or about the District in general, please visit our Web site at [www.sfidwater.org](http://www.sfidwater.org).

Please remember that we are always available to assist you should you ever have any questions or concerns about your water. Please call (858) 756-2424. Our customer service staff is available Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and every other Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## Public Meetings

The Santa Fe Irrigation District supplies water to a service area that includes the City of Solana Beach and the unincorporated communities of Rancho Santa Fe and Fairbanks Ranch. The Santa Fe Irrigation District is governed by an elected Board of Directors, with one member representing each of the five geographical divisions within the District. The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors is held on the third Thursday of each month at the District's Administrative Office.

The Public is encouraged to attend the Board Meetings. For agenda information, or day and time of the Board Meetings, please visit our Web site at [www.sfidwater.org](http://www.sfidwater.org).

## Important Health Information

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants may be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The U.S. EPA/CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline>.

## Lead in Home Plumbing

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

## Testing for Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. You should pursue radon removal if the level of radon in your air is 4 pCi/L of air or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that are not too costly. For additional information, call California's radon program at (800) 745-7236, the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline at (800) 426-4791, or the National Safety Council's Radon Hotline at (800) SOS-RADON.

## Water Treatment Process

The water treatment process consists of a number of steps that progressively remove contaminants from the water. The process at the R.E. Badger Filtration plant is a Conventional Filtration process. This process begins with preoxidation where chlorine dioxide is added to oxidize many of the dissolved inorganics or organics, and help remove them later in the process. As water reaches the influent of the treatment plant, a coagulant is added that neutralizes the charge on particles in the water, causing them to coagulate or stick together. As they stick together, they eventually get heavier and sink to the bottom of the settling clarifier. The surface water is then collected and chlorine is added to provide disinfection. The water then travels to the filters, where it passes through an anthracite and sand filter where any remaining particles are removed. After the filtering process, ammonia is added to the water which converts the chlorine disinfectant to a more stable form of disinfectant called chloramines. These chloramines have a much longer life span and ensure that the water stays disinfected as it travels through the distribution system to the customers.

## Source Water Assessment

Local water supplies are considered most vulnerable to agricultural and urban/storm runoff. A copy of the R.E. Badger Filtration Plant Watershed Sanitary Survey is available for review at the treatment plant. If you have any questions about this report, please call our Water Quality Analyst at (858) 756-2424.

In December 2007, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California completed its source water assessment of our imported water from the Colorado River and State Water Project supplies. Colorado River supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to recreation, urban/storm water runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. State Water Project supplies are considered to be most vulnerable to urban/storm water runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater. A copy of the assessment can be obtained by contacting Metropolitan by phone at (213) 217-6850.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information about this report, or for any questions relating to your drinking water, please call our Water Quality Analyst at (858) 756-2424.



## Where Does My Water Come From?

The Santa Fe Irrigation District and San Dieguito Water District jointly own and operate the R.E. Badger Filtration Plant. The plant treats both imported and local water. Imported water is delivered by pipeline from Lake Skinner located in the City of Hemet. Lake Skinner is a blend of water imported by the Metropolitan Water District of California from the Colorado River and the Sacramento River Delta. Local water originates from Lake Hodges and is transferred either to the San Dieguito Reservoir through a small aqueduct and then to the treatment plant, or directly to the treatment plant via the Cielo Pump Station.

## Substances That Could Be in Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the California Department of Public Health (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include: **Microbial Contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; **Inorganic Contaminants**, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or can result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; **Pesticides and Herbicides**, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses; **Organic Chemical Contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and that can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural applications, and septic systems; **Radioactive Contaminants**, that can be naturally occurring or can be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

# Sampling Results

During the past year, we have taken hundreds of water samples in order to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic, or synthetic organic contaminants. The tables below show only those contaminants that were detected in the water. The state requires us to monitor for certain substances less often than once per year because the concentrations of these substances do not change frequently. In these cases, the most recent sample data are included, along with the year in which the sample was taken.

We participated in the 3rd stage of the U.S. EPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR3) program by performing additional tests on our drinking water. UCMR3 benefits the environment and public health by providing the EPA with data on the occurrence of contaminants suspected to be in drinking water, in order to determine if the EPA needs to introduce new regulatory standards to improve drinking water quality. Any UCMR3 detections are shown in the data tables below. Contact us for more information on this program.

REGULATED SUBSTANCES							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Aluminum (ppm)	2013	1	0.6	0.009	ND–0.038	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residue from some surface water treatment processes
Arsenic (ppb)	2013	10	0.004	0.55	ND–1.2	No	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2013	1	2	0.077	0.05–0.31	No	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chloramines (ppm)	2013	[4.0 (as Cl2)]	[4 (as Cl2)]	2.3	2.09–2.44	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Chlorine Dioxide (ppb)	2013	[800 (as ClO2)]	[800 (as ClO2)]	<50	ND–100	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Chlorite (ppm)	2013	1.0	0.05	0.2	ND–0.46	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
DBP Precursors (ppm)	2013	TT	NA	3.25	1.99–5.29	No	Various natural and manmade sources
Fecal coliform and <i>E. coli</i> [Total Coliform Rule] (# positive samples)	2013	a routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive, and one of these is also fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i> positive	(0)	1	NA	No	Human and animal fecal waste
Fluoride (ppm)	2013	2.0	1	0.28	0.21–0.38	No	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Gross Beta Particle Activity <sup>1</sup> (pCi/L)	2007	50	(0)	1.47	ND–5.9	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Haloacetic Acids–Stage 1 (ppb)	2013	60	NA	14.6	14–17.4	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes]–Stage 2 (ppb)	2013	80	NA	46	39–66.8	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Coliform Bacteria [Total Coliform Rule] (% positive samples)	2013	More than 5.0% of monthly samples are positive	0	1.25	NA	No	Naturally present in the environment
Tap water samples were collected for lead and copper analyses from sample sites throughout the community							
SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED (90TH% TILE)	SITES ABOVE AL/ TOTAL SITES	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
Copper (ppm)	2013	1.3	0.3	0.120	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (ppb)	2013	15	0.2	0	0/30	No	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits

## SECONDARY SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	SMCL	PHG (MCLG)	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	VIOLATION	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Aluminum</b> (ppb)	2013	200	NS	9.5	ND–38	No	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
<b>Chloride</b> (ppm)	2013	500	NS	127	83–180	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
<b>Color</b> (Units)	2013	15	NS	4.6	3.8–5.5	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
<b>Odor–Threshold</b> (Units)	2013	3	NS	1.0	1–2	No	Naturally occurring organic materials
<b>Specific Conductance</b> (µS/cm)	2013	1,600	NS	1,020	870–1,200	No	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
<b>Sulfate</b> (ppm)	2013	500	NS	195	180–210	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
<b>Total Dissolved Solids</b> (ppm)	2013	1,000	NS	625	530–770	No	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
<b>Turbidity</b> (NTU)	2013	5	NS	0.02	0.01–0.25	No	Soil runoff

## UNREGULATED AND OTHER SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH	TYPICAL SOURCE
<b>Bromochloromethane</b> (ppb)	2013	43	ND–97	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Bromodichloromethane</b> (ppb)	2013	13.2	12–15	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Bromoform</b> (ppb)	2013	5.6	3.4–10	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Chloroform</b> (ppb)	2013	11.4	7.3–16	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Dibromochloromethane</b> (ppb)	2013	15	12–20	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Bromochloroacetic Acid</b> (ppb)	2013	5.21	3.8–6.3	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Dibromoacetic Acid</b> (ppb)	2013	3.9	2.9–5.1	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Dichloroacetic Acid</b> (ppb)	2013	6.2	3.4–12	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Trichloroacetic Acid</b> (ppb)	2013	4.2	2.8–6.0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
<b>Hardness</b> (grains/gal)	2013	16.5	14.6–18.7	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium; usually naturally occurring
<b>Hardness</b> (ppm)	2013	282	250–320	Sum of polyvalent cations present in the water, generally magnesium and calcium; usually naturally occurring
<b>Sodium</b> (ppm)	2013	107	81–140	Salt present in the water; generally naturally occurring

## UNREGULATED CONTAMINANT MONITORING REGULATION 3 (UCMR3)

SUBSTANCE (UNIT OF MEASURE)	YEAR SAMPLED	AMOUNT DETECTED	RANGE LOW-HIGH
<b>Chlorate</b> (ppb)	2013	263	180–400
<b>Chromium</b> (ppb)	2013	0.12	ND–0.26
<b>Chromium VI [Hexavalent Chromium]</b> (ppb)	2013	0.04	ND–0.050
<b>Molybdenum</b> (ppb)	2013	3.7	3.0–4.2
<b>Strontium</b> (ppb)	2013	688	490–790
<b>Vanadium</b> (ppb)	2013	1.8	1.4–2.2

<sup>1</sup> Effective 6/11/2006, the gross beta particle activity MCL is 4 millirem/year annual dose equivalent to the total body or any internal organ. 50 pCi/L is used as a screening level.

## Definitions

**AL (Regulatory Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

**µS/cm (microsiemens per centimeter):** A unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution.

**grains/gal (grains per gallon):** Grains of compound per gallon of water.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs (SMCLs) are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

**MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. EPA.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**MRDLG (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**NA:** Not applicable

**ND (Not detected):** Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

**NS:** No standard

**NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** Measurement of the clarity, or turbidity, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**pCi/L (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.

**PDWS (Primary Drinking Water Standard):** MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

**PHG (Public Health Goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California EPA.

**ppb (parts per billion):** One part substance per billion parts water (or micrograms per liter).

**ppm (parts per million):** One part substance per million parts water (or milligrams per liter).

**TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.